

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7634

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 04143

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, GE, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA DISTRIBUTION PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS
SPEECH

REF: USICA 10783

1. EMBASSY PAO GAVE WIDEST DISTRIBUTION TO DATE OF
PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH, ADDRESSEES TOTAL-
LING FORTY-SEVEN AS FOLLOWS: SIXTEEN TO MFA INCLUDING
FOREIGN MINISTER, THREE DEPUTY FMS, USA SECTION, PRESS AND
CULTURAL DEPARTMENTS; ONE TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE; FIVE TO
INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND ECONOMICS; NINE TO INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SIXTEEN TO MEDIA EDITORS
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AT "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND," "BERLINER ZEITUNG," "HORIZONT,"
"PANORAMA," GDR-TV AND RADIO. WHILE ALL THE OTHER
TEXTS WERE DELIVERED DIRECTLY, THE SIXTEEN FOR THE MEDIA
WERE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GDR PRESS REGULATION, SUBMITTED
FIRST TO THE MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL. THREE
DAYS AFTER DELIVERY, ON JUNE 15, MFA PRESS
DEPARTMENT'S DIETER GUDERJAHN PHONED APAO--PAO WAS IN

MAGDEBURG--TO SAY THAT THE SPEECH COULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE SIXTEEN MEDIA EDITORS BY REASON OF A GDR REGULATION KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE OTHER THIRTY-ONE COPIES DELIVERED THREE DAYS EARLIER TO FM FISCHER AND OTHER SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS, CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S AGITPROP CHIEF KOBERT, AND THE TWO INSTITUTES. APPOINTMENT WAS MADE FOR PAO TO SEE GUDERJAHN JUNE 19.

2. GUDERJAHN, TOGETHER WITH NEW ASSOCIATE KRASKE(RECENTLY TRANSFERRED FROM GDR EMBASSY HANOI), RECEIVED PAO WHO MADE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION: IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR EMBASSY TO GRASP HOW MAJOR SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT, REPORTED WIDELY ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND ALREADY REACTED TO IN GDR MEDIA, COULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED TO MEDIA AS BACKGROUND AND FILE COPY; THAT PRESS REPORTS ONLY GAVE EXCERPTS, THEREFORE FULL TEXT USEFUL, ESPECIALLY SINCE MANY GDR JOURNALISTS FREQUENTLY EXPRESS NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY; THAT CURRENT BILATERAL RELATIONS AT POSITIVE POINT WITH FOREIGN AND CULTURAL MINISTERS VISITS AND SPEECHES IN U.S. AND ENORMOUS PUBLICITY TO DRESDEN EXHIBIT; THAT GDR EMBASSY WASHINGTON FREE TO DISTRIBUTE WHAT IT PLEASES AND WITHOUT PRIOR CLEARANCE; FINALLY, THAT GDR IS SIGNATORY TO HELSINKI FINAL ACT WHOSE SPIRIT IS CONTRADICTED BY MFA ACTION PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH. PAO THEN ASKED FOR SPECIFIC REASONS FOR MFA DECISION.
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3. GUDERJAHN RESPONDED NERVOUSLY BY CITING THE GDR REGULATION ON DISTRIBUTION TO THE MEDIA, WHICH HE SAID REQUIRES THAT THE EMBASSY SUBMIT THE SUBJECT MATERIALS IN TRIPPLICATE TO THE MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT AND IF AFTER THREE DAYS THERE IS NO REPLY, THE MATERIALS MAY BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEDIA. PAO SAID HE AWARE OF THE REGULATION, HAD ABIDED BY IT, BUT IN FACT HAD NEVER SEEN ITS LANGUAGE EVEN THOUGH, AS GUDERJAHN WOULD RECALL, REQUESTS HAD BEEN MADE LAST YEAR FOR A COPY. GUDERJAHN CONCEDED MFA AT FAULT IN NOT AGAIN REISSUING PRESS REGULATION WHICH WAS FIRST CIRCULATED, HE SAID, IN 1969 TO ALL EMBASSIES BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE. HE THEN IMPLIED THAT REASON FOR MFA ACTION ON PRESIDENT'S SPEECH HAD TO DO WITH ITS CONTENT, AND WHEN ASKED TO BE MORE PRECISE, GUDERJAHN SAID THAT ANY MATERIAL ATTACKING THIRD COUNTRY COULD NOT BE PROVIDED TO MEDIA, AND THAT NO EMBASSY COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THIS REGULATION.

4. PAO POINTED OUT THAT MATERIAL UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS A MAJOR SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN WHICH HE SPOKE OF COOPERATION AND PROGRESS WITH THE

SOVIET UNION. GUDERJAHN SAID MFA INTERPRETED THE SPEECH DIFFERENTLY, THAT IT WAS IN FACT AN ATTACK ON AN ALLY OF THE GDR. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OTHER MFA OFFICIALS HAD RECEIVED EMBASSY TEXT AND THAT THEY READ SPEECH FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION PURPOSES. PAO SAID THAT WAS ALSO PURPOSE IN DISTRIBUTION TO PRESS. GUDERJAHN SAID HE DID NOT WISH DEBATE PROS AND CONS OF SPEECH; THAT HE WAS CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS AS PAO SHOULD WELL UNDERSTAND; THAT HE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT MAR POSITIVE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS; THAT JUST AS GDR EMBASSY PRO-

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CEDED ON BASIS US LAWS, US EMBASSY SHOULD OBSERVE SAME WITH GDR LAWS, WHICH APPLIED ALL EMBASSIES.

5. KRASKE INTERJECTED REMARK, WITH WHICH GUDERJAHN QUICKLY AGREED, THAT IT WAS RIGHT OF ALL FOREIGN EMBASSIES DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR COUNTRIES, BUT NOT MATERIALS INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL POLICIES THEIR COUNTRIES. PAO RESPONDED THAT MEDIA EDITORS DID NOT REQUIRE MATERIALS ABOUT US PARKS AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND THAT AS MFA KNEW, PREVIOUS TEXTS DISTRIBUTED BY EMBASSY TO

WHICH MFA HAD NO OBJECTION INVOLVED ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICIES, SPEECHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BY PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF STATE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI. GUDERJAHN SAID HE AWARE THOSE OCCA-
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SIONS BUT THAT NONE HAD BEEN GIVEN SAME WIDE MEDIA DISTRIBUTION REQUESTED OF PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH. PAO ASKED IF DECISION COULD NOT BE RECONSIDERED, AND GUDERJAHN SAID DECISION FINAL BUT THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS. CONCLUDING, GUDERJAHN SAID HE WISHED RECOMMEND AND THEREBY SIMPLIFY FUTURE PROCEDURE, NAMELY, THAT EMBASSY NEED ONLY PROVIDE THREE COPIES OF TEXTS TO MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT AND IF IN THREE DAYS NO REACTION RECEIVED, EMBASSY COULD DISTRIBUTE AS MANY COPIES AND TO WHOMEVER IT PLEASES.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTING MAJOR POLICY STATEMENTS TO SELECTED AUDIENCES ON A GRADUALLY INCREASING SCALE SINCE LAST FALL WITHOUT OBJECTION IN FACT, WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS EXPRESSING THANKS FOR THESE MATERIALS, WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO DISTRIBUTE TO AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE. SECRETARY VANCE'S JUNE 19 STATEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, FOR INSTANCE, GIVES US AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE TESTING THE LIMITS OF THE GDR PRESS REGULATION AND ESPECIALLY BECAUSE ITS POINT OF DEPARTURE IS THE PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH. AS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED, GDR MEDIA REACTION TO ANNAPOLIS SPEECH HAS BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF SOVIET ORIGIN, DRAWING HEAVILY ON TASS AND PRAVDA, AND REACHING PEAK JUNE 19 WITH FULL-PAGE TRANSLATION IN "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" OF PRAVDA JUNE 17 EDITORIAL. MFA'S REFUSAL ALLOW TEXT DISTRIBUTION TO MEDIA UNDERLINES SENSITIVITY WITHIN GDR OFFICIAL CIRCLES TO U.S. CRITICISM OF SOVIET PERFORMANCE, PARTICULARLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT TO GDR OFFICIALS THAT ITS DECISION AGAINST DISTRIBUTION TO MEDIA OF THE PRESIDENT'S
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ANNAPOLIS SPEECH IS NOT HELPFUL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL COOPERATION, IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE IMAGE OF THE GDR.
BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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